

**Introduced by Senator Romero**

April 5, 2006

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Senate Resolution No. 28—Relative to Innocence Project.

1 WHEREAS, Advances in DNA testing have scientifically  
2 proved that innocent people have been wrongfully convicted of  
3 crimes they did not commit in California; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 200 people have been wrongfully  
5 convicted in California of serious felonies just since 1989 in  
6 DNA and nonDNA cases; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 1973, 123 innocent people nationwide have  
8 been sentenced to death only to have it discovered years later that  
9 they did not commit the crime; and

10 WHEREAS, There is currently no state agency charged solely  
11 with the task of investigating cases of wrongful conviction and  
12 incarceration; and

13 WHEREAS, The Northern California Innocence Project at  
14 Santa Clara University and the California Innocence Project at  
15 California Western School of Law are the only organizations in  
16 the state dedicated to helping individuals who are wrongfully  
17 convicted; and

18 WHEREAS, Much of the work of the Northern California  
19 Innocence Project and California Innocence Project is done by  
20 law students who volunteer their time; and

21 WHEREAS, The attorneys and other staff of the Northern  
22 California Innocence Project and California Innocence Project  
23 offer their services to inmates on a pro bono basis; and

24 WHEREAS, The Northern California Innocence Project and  
25 California Innocence Project and their staffs and student

1 volunteers exemplify the statement by President John F. Kennedy  
2 that “one person can make a difference”; now, therefore, be it  
3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the  
4 Senate commends the Northern California Innocence Project and  
5 California Innocence Project, and their staffs and student  
6 volunteers, for their outstanding dedication and unwavering  
7 service to the pursuit of ensuring that wrongs are put right in  
8 California’s criminal justice system; and be it further  
9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
10 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.